

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (cancelled)

Claim 22 (cancelled)

Claim 23 (currently amended): A connector assembly for use with a tarp, said connector assembly comprising:

male and female connector members, each said connector member comprising:

a base portion having a broad, generally flat bearing face for engaging material of a tarp; and

a flange portion that extends from said base portion opposite and generally normal to said bearing face for being gripped between and rotated by the fingers of a hand, said flange portion having an opening a bore formed through said flange portion around an axis that extends generally perpendicular to an axis of said screw and socket portions, for attachment of a load thereto;

said male connector member further comprising:

a threaded screw portion extending normal to said bearing face thereof, said screw portion having a tapered, sharply pointed tip for piercing material of a tarp; and

said female connector member further comprising:

a threaded socket portion extending normal to said bearing face thereof for receiving said screw portion of said male connector member in threaded engagement therewith, said socket portion being recessed into said bearing face of said female connector member so that said bearing faces of said male and female connector members are able to meet in substantially face-to-face contact when said connector members are tightened together.

Claim 24 (cancelled)

Claim 25 (previously presented): The connector assembly of claim 23, wherein said opening for attachment of a load comprises:

a hook portion formed on said flange portion and having a hook opening formed around an axis that extends generally perpendicular to an axis of said screw and socket portions.